

SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM CONTROLLED DISSEM

49-3

Approved For Release 2002/08/20 : CIA-RDP78S02149R000200160002-0



DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

Vietnam
grt
dow

S-1054/AP-4A

SUBJECT: Enemy Strength in South Vietnam (U)

TO: Commander in Chief
Pacific Command
FPO
San Francisco 96610

1. (S/NFD) Contingency planning for future peace negotiations or for any post hostilities situation requires an intelligence estimate of the North Vietnamese presence in South Vietnam. The question of distinguishing between the ethnic Northerners and ethnic Southerners and determining the numbers assigned to various communist forces in South Vietnam has become a matter of concern to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs). There is at present no reliable way of estimating, on the basis of current data, how many North Vietnamese in specific categories are now in South Vietnam.

2. (S/NFD) Memoranda prepared by this agency and the State Department (enclosures) attempted to address specific aspects of the problem but were unable to provide definitive answers due to gaps in the statistical base. Although there is general agreement on the number of NVA in units as identified in the MACV order of battle, a real problem exists in counting and identifying other NVA and hard core North Vietnamese Communists in South Vietnam. Further, there is a pressing need for information with respect to the impact of casualties on those who have been infiltrated. Lacking casualty statistics that differentiate between the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong forces, it has been necessary to rely to a considerable extent on analytical judgment to arrive at an estimate of residual North Vietnamese strength in South Vietnam.

3. (S) In view of the continuing high-level interest, your assistance is requested in further refining and analyzing existing data to reflect the most definitive picture possible of the North Vietnamese presence in South Vietnam. Your preliminary comments and views on

DIA review(s) completed.

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC
REGRADING; DOD DIR 5200.10
DOES NOT APPLY

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this problem are requested by 20 December 1966 with an estimate of the earliest date that a considered reply can be expected.

3 Enclosures

1. Memo ASD (ISA) dtd
25 Nov 66 (S/NFD)
2. Memo ASD (ISA) dtd
17 Nov 66 (S/NFD)
3. Memo RFE-49, INR State
dtd 9 Nov 66 (S/NFD/CD)

cc: COMUSMACV

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				DATE COORDINATION
2				FILE
				INFORMATION
3				NOTE AND RETURN
				PER CONVERSATION
4				SEE ME
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REMARKS

State and DIA have been engaged
in trying to establish NVN presence
in SVN for State and DoD. The attached
correspondance refers the problem to
CINCPAC and MACV for their views.

We think CIA would also be
interested and should try its hand at
the problem. Can you give me your
informal view in a few days.

FROM

SL Gorley

DATE

12/5/66

PHONE

71564